

Minutes of the meeting of the **Amenities Committee** held at the **Shire Hall** on **Wednesday 3rd December 2025** at **7pm**.

Councillors:

Present: D Adelson, E Beck, S Miller, E O’Nolan, D Pegg, S Sadler and M Wilks.

Apologies: S Bale and R Sanders.

In Attendance: Deputy Town Clerk (Mrs Belinda Lloyd), Cllr. Nigel Phipps and two members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were approved for Cllrs. S Bale and R Sanders.

2. Request for declarations of interest.

Cllr. E O’Nolan declared an interest in Item 8 as Chair of the Deben Climate Centre.

3. Request for dispensations.

Cllr. O’Nolan was granted a dispensation, for this meeting only, to remain in the room to address the Committee but not to vote.

4. Public Question Time.

Members heard from Pam Watson, director of the Deben Climate Centre who spoke to the Committee regarding Item 8 on the agenda.

5. To agree and approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2025.

The minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held 5th November 2025 were approved as a true record.

6. To receive a presentation from East Suffolk Council regarding Newnham Avenue open space.

Members were addressed by Sarah Shinnie, Corporate Events & Commercial Partnerships Officer, from East Suffolk Council. The Committee gave a brief overview of the plans and outlined the process ESC will follow to engage the community on the redevelopment of this site.

Cllr Miller, Thanked Sarah for her time and the Committee look forward to working with East Suffolk on this development.

7. To note the decision of the Town Council in regard of the Fen Meadow recommendation and to consider the following:

7.1 - To note the recommendation of Wicksteed as preferred contractor was not carried by the Town Council.

The Committee noted the decision taken by the Council.

7.2 – To discuss the in-principle decision to provide East Suffolk Council £20,000 grant funding to support their plans to improve the play equipment at the Newnham Avenue open space.

The Committee noted the in-principle decision made at the Council meeting held on 19.11.25. Members deferred making the decision to consider any grant funding requests, to enable further discussion with ESC and to consider our own application for a Cil grant from ESC.

7.3 - To note the minutes from the Climate Ecological Emergency Committee meeting dated 26.11.25

Members noted the minutes.

7.4 - To discuss the future for the Fen Meadow Play area.

The Committee agreed for The Chair of Climate Ecological Emergency Committee, the Chair of the Amenities Committee and the Deputy Town Clerk to meet to further discuss the plans to be presented to both Committees at a later date.

A visit will be made to the Rushmere st Andrew to see an example of a nature play area.

8. To note a request from the Deben Climate Centre to lease an area of land from the Town Council.

The Committee discussed the proposed locations for food growing and asked the Deben Climate Centre to consider in more detail the location suggested in Elmhurst Park and present this plan the Committee at the next meeting.

9. To note the response from the War Memorial Trust following the request for funding to update the War Memorial with correct initials.

The Committee were disappointed with the response from the War Memorial Trust but agreed to fund the work from the Amenities 25/26 Budget. Spencer Wix was approved to complete the work.

8. To receive an update on the Elmhurst Park Toilets.

Members considered the email update from the Estates Officer. With regards to the questions posed in the email the committee agreed to open one toilet to the public at a time for the hours of 8am till 3pm Monday to Sunday and for these arrangements to be reviewed at the end of March when the daylight extends later into the day. Members of the committee were asked to complete some in person research after the hours of 3pm to consider the impact of the 3pm closure on the public after these times.

11. Closure

The meeting was closed at 8.29pm.

Councillor Miller
Chair